



City of Chicago
Richard M. Daley, Mayor

Department of Environment

Henry L. Henderson
Commissioner

Room 600A
320 North Clark Street
Chicago, Illinois 60610
(312) 744-7606 (Voice)
(312) 744-3586 (TT/TDD)
(312) 744-6451 (FAX)

June 28, 1995

Mr. Donald Bruce
Emergency Response and Enforcement Branch, HSE-5J
77 West Jackson
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671		# of pages > 2
To	MR. DON BRUCE	
From	JOE SCHUESSLER	
Co.	USEPA	
Co.	CHICAGO DEPT OF ENV	
Dept.	EMERG. RESPONSE	
Phone #	744-9377	
Fax #	312-353-9176	
Fax #	312-744-5272	

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



236970

RE: Autodeposition, 1518 West Hubbard

Dear Mr. Bruce:

Request that your office give high priority to an emergency response action to begin immediate removal and clean-up of the Autodeposition facility at 1518 West Hubbard.

We have had an excellent response from your office after our referral when we felt that the owners would be unable to execute a clean-up. We believe that Charlie Gebien had initiated action in a timely and thorough manner to deal with the situation, taking initial samples of hazardous materials within the facility and attempting to gain funding for the clean-up.

However, the incidents on June 23, 1995, indicate the increased gravity of the situation and the need for immediate action. Scavengers again entered the facility, this time driving a truck through the back gate through which they gained access, and were discovered by Charlie Gebien in the morning. After he informed us, the Fire Department responded with a visit by Chief Ormond, Deputy Fire Commissioner for Fire Prevention, Chief Eversole, Coordinator of Hazardous Materials, along with the Hazardous Incident Team, and Joe Schuessler and Pete Badillo from our Department were on hand.

A new discovery was a large pool of liquid on the floor in the east end of the building which possibly is chromic acid dumped out of vats that had been stolen by scavengers. We were able to get the water turned off and request increased police surveillance of the building, the Hazardous Incident Team neutralized the pooling chromic acid outside of the building, and Glenn Westerberg had the back entrance boarded up to secure the building, thus stabilizing the situation over the weekend.

However, during our visit on Monday, we discovered that the fenced-off area by the alley had been breached, and drums with solids had been tipped over and presented the possibility of running off into the alley during a rainstorm. We also believe that the security of the building is highly questionable, given



the temporary nature of the board-up and by the fact that the police cannot continue increased surveillance of the building indefinitely. There is also a large danger of fire in the building, given the scavengers entering and possibility lighting fires in the building and the lack of any sprinkler system to extinguish a fire once started.

We realize that your funding situation is tight and that you must juggle priorities over an entire region. However, we believe that 1518 West Hubbard is a highly dangerous situation, posing a significant threat to the health and safety of the local residents, emergency personnel responding to any incidents, and those illegally entering the building. Furthermore, this address is in a minority neighborhood, and it may help in your Agency's concrete efforts to promote environmental justice.

We appreciate the assistance you have given us so far at this site and other sites in Chicago in the recent past, and we look forward to continuing the close cooperation with you into the future.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at 744-4034 or Joe Schuessler at 744-9377.

Sincerely,



David R. Inman
Assistant Commissioner